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13 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
14 **FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
15 **SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

16
17
18 ANTHROPIC PBC,
19 *Plaintiff,*

20 v.

21 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF WAR, *et al.*,
22
23 *Defendants.*

Case No. 3:26-cv-01996

Leave to File Granted
03/12/2026

**BRIEF OF *AMICI CURIAE* FORMER
SERVICE SECRETARIES AND
RETIRED SENIOR MILITARY
OFFICERS IN SUPPORT OF
PRELIMINARY RELIEF**

Date:
Time:
Judge: Honorable Rita F. Lin

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INTEREST OF *AMICI CURIAE*

Amici have a strong interest in this case because invoking national-security authorities outside their congressionally set limits threatens the rule of law and all relationships between domestic private-sector partners and our military services. They submit this brief to provide the Court with the perspective of former high-ranking leaders whose professional responsibilities required them to pursue national-security imperatives while complying with the law.¹

Individual *amici* are identified below. *Amici*'s short biographies listed in the addendum reflect a measure of their distinguished service to our country.

- Admiral C. Steve Abbot, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
- Admiral Thad W. Allen, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.)
- Vice Admiral Donald C. Arthur, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
- Rear Admiral (Upper Half) William D. Baumgartner, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.)
- The Honorable Richard Danzig, Former Secretary of the Navy
- The Honorable Carlos Del Toro, Former Secretary of the Navy
- Rear Admiral (Upper Half) F. Stephen Glass, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
- Rear Admiral (Upper Half) Donald J. Guter, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
- Major General Richard S. Haddad, U.S. Air Force (Ret.)
- Major General Irving L. Halter, Jr., U.S. Air Force (Ret.)
- Rear Admiral (Upper Half) Janice Hamby, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
- Rear Admiral (Lower Half) Charles D. Harr, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
- General Michael V. Hayden, U.S. Air Force (Ret.)
- The Honorable Frank Kendall, Former Secretary of the Air Force
- Rear Admiral (Upper Half) James E. McPherson, JAGC, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
- Brigadier General Mark A. Montjar, U.S. Army (Ret.)

¹ No counsel for any party authored the brief in whole or part. No person other than *amici* or their counsel contributed money intended to fund the preparation or submission of the brief.

- 1 • Admiral William A. Owens, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
- 2 • The Honorable F. Whitten Peters, Former Secretary of the Air Force
- 3 • Major General Gale S. Pollock (Ret.)
- 4 • Rear Admiral Michael E. Smith, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
- 5 • Major General F. Andrew Turley, U.S. Air Force (Ret.)
- 6 • The Honorable Christine Wormuth, Former Secretary of the Army

7 INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

8 A military grounded in the rule of law is weakened, not strengthened, by government actions that
9 lack legal foundation. A military that has thrived on public-private partnerships is weakened, not
10 strengthened, when the government sends the message that investing in national security carries the risk
11 of capricious retaliation or disproportionate punishment for voicing disagreement. Designating an
12 American company a security risk, and warning other companies not to do business with it for reasons
13 other than national security, is an extraordinary and unprecedented step for the military's civilian
14 leadership to take. Taking such a step without firm grounding in law is dangerous. That is not the path
15 the United States has followed in building the strongest military in the world. It is not a road that this
16 country, or its military, should go down now.

17 The United States Armed Forces are the envy of the world, owing first and foremost to the brave
18 men and women who serve their country honorably and selflessly at great personal sacrifice. But the
19 military's strength also flows from two enduring foundations: the ingenuity of the American people and
20 the rule of law. From the earliest days of this country, the military has enjoyed a collaborative relationship
21 with an innovative private sector, working together to forge the technologies that protect our
22 servicemembers and support their missions on ever-changing battlefields—from muskets to aircraft to
23 artificial intelligence. No less important to the military's strength is the rule of law—the backbone of our
24 democracy that the military fights for, and which in turn stands as one of its greatest assets as a cohesive
25 fighting force.

26 *Amici* have had the great privilege of leading the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces.
27 *Amici* come from different backgrounds, have served in different military departments, and have a range

1 of different perspectives. But they share a profound commitment to the rule of law as a cornerstone of
2 national security. They also share a grave concern over government actions that stretch the law in the
3 name of national security—actions that ultimately threaten national security and the rule of law alike.

4 The Secretary of Defense recently invoked 10 U.S.C. § 3252 (“Section 3252”) and the Federal
5 Acquisition Supply Chain Security Act (“FASCESA”), 41 U.S.C. § 4713, to designate an American
6 company, Anthropic PBC (“Anthropic”), a “Supply-Chain Risk.”² The Secretary described the
7 consequences of this designation in sweeping terms, including that it restricts any company that does
8 business with the military from engaging in any commercial activity with Anthropic.³ The Secretary’s
9 designation was made against the backdrop of Congress’s stark and clearly delineated definition of
10 “supply chain risk”: it is “the risk that an adversary may sabotage, maliciously introduce unwanted
11 function, or otherwise subvert the design, integrity, manufacturing, production, distribution, installation,
12 operation, or maintenance of a [national security] system so as to surveil, deny, disrupt, or otherwise
13 degrade the function, use, or operation of such system.” 10 U.S.C. § 3252(d)(4); *see also* 41 U.S.C.
14 § 4713(k)(6) (similar). Recognizing the seriousness of this designation, Congress also imposed protective
15 measures to limit the weaponization of its use, including determinations that the designation “is necessary
16 to protect national security” and that “less intrusive measures are not reasonably available.” 10 U.S.C.
17 § 3252(b); 41 U.S.C. § 4713(b)(3).

18 *Amici* understand that Anthropic’s designation as a supply chain risk followed a disagreement
19 about the proper guardrails around the military’s use of fast-developing artificial intelligence technologies.
20 As important as those policy questions are, *amici* do not file this brief to weigh in on those debates.
21 Something more basic is at stake: the misuse of powerful national security authorities by civilian political
22 leadership, not to address the serious concerns that led Congress to delegate the authority in question, but
23 as retribution against a private company that has displeased the leadership. On that foundational
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25 ² *See* Pete Hegseth (@SecWar), X, *Statement on Anthropic and Supply Chain Risk Designation* (Feb. 27,
26 2026, at 17:14 ET), <https://perma.cc/5BNB-DCRX>.

27 ³ *See* Pete Hegseth, *supra* (“Effective immediately, no contractor, supplier, or partner that does business
28 with the United States military may conduct any commercial activity with Anthropic.”).

1 democratic principle, *amici* are uniquely positioned to speak, having devoted their careers to ensuring the
2 military's fidelity to the rule of law.

3 ARGUMENT

4 **I. The Secretary's Supply Chain Risk Designation Undermines the Military's Adherence to** 5 **the Rule of Law and the Public's Confidence that the Military is Governed by the Rule of** 6 **Law.**

7 The rule of law is the cornerstone of American constitutional democracy and central to the
8 military's role within it. As James Madison explained, "[i]n framing a government which is to be
9 administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to
10 control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself."⁴ Under America's constitutional
11 system of government, both the governed and those who exercise power—including the military—must
12 adhere to the rule of law. The legitimacy of executive action thus depends on adherence to legal
13 constraints, and public confidence in executive officials likewise depends on the perception that it is bound
14 by the rule of law.

15 For the Armed Forces in particular, adherence to the rule of law is not merely a constitutional ideal;
16 it is a professional and legal obligation.⁵ Servicemembers swear to support and defend the Constitution
17 of the United States and to "bear true faith and allegiance to the same . . . according to regulations and the
18 Uniform Code of Military Justice." 10 U.S.C. § 502(a). Through the oaths of enlistment and office,
19 members of the military formally commit themselves to the principle that their authority, and the force
20 they wield on the Nation's behalf, must always remain subordinate to the Nation's laws.

21 The Secretary's designation challenged in this suit undermines the military's adherence to the rule
22 of law and the public's confidence that the Military is bound by laws. Together and separately, those
23 consequences erode the ability of the Armed Forces to protect the American people and the security of

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25 ⁴ The Federalist No. 51 (James Madison).

26 ⁵ Lt. Col. Nathan J. Bankson, *Legitimacy and Rule of Law: A Military Practitioner's Point of View*, 67
27 DOJ J. Fed. L. & Prac. 245, 247–48 (2019) (explaining that "[r]ule of law is the centerpiece to legitimacy"
28 and that a military that "disregards the law . . . will not earn the trust and respect of the population and,
therefore, will lose its legitimacy").

1 this Nation. When executive officials disregard—or appear to disregard—the limitations imposed by
2 Congress, they violate the fundamental maxim that “[n]o man in this country is so high that he is above
3 the law”—all officials are “creatures of law and . . . bound to obey it.”⁶ Such limits are particularly
4 important when applied to the U.S. military, which wields extraordinary power and might. In a democratic
5 society, it is critical that the public maintain faith in the military’s adherence to the rule of law, including
6 where executive officials invoke extraordinary national-security authorities that Congress deliberately
7 confined to narrow and exceptional circumstances.

8 *First*, since the Founding, our Armed Forces have been formed “entirely at the devotion of the
9 federal government . . . render[ing] it sufficiently dependent upon the people,” and thus subject to civilian
10 control.⁷ Congress plays a central role in that constitutional framework. Article I assigns Congress the
11 responsibility to oversee, authorize, and fund the U.S. military, ensuring that military power is exercised
12 pursuant to democratically enacted law, rather than unilateral executive will.⁸ Disregarding Congress’s
13 statutory limits governing the use of military authority both undermines institutional trust and erodes the
14 Constitution’s allocation of war powers between Congress and the Executive.

15 The Armed Forces thus depend on Congress not only for the resources to defend our Nation, but
16 also for the legal authority that governs their use.⁹ Congress, in turn, necessarily entrusts military leaders
17 with significant discretion to exercise professional judgment in carrying out statutory directives, leading
18 complex national-security missions, and cultivating the tradition of disciplined, lawful servant leadership
19

20 _____
21 ⁶ *United States v. Lee*, 106 U.S. (16 Otto) 196, 220 (1882); *see also Marbury v. Madison*, 5 U.S. (1 Cranch)
137, 176 (1803) (similar).

22 ⁷ The Federalist No. 46 (James Madison).

23 ⁸ *See* Kathleen J. McInnis, Cong. Res. Serv., *IF11566, Congress Civilian Control of the Military, and*
24 *Nonpartisanship* 1 (June 10, 2020), <https://perma.cc/269Y-7S6N>; *accord* Alan Z. Rozenshtein,
25 *Congress—Not the Pentagon or Anthropic—Should Set Military AI Rules*, *Lawfare* (Feb. 20, 2026),
26 <https://perma.cc/VF68-2V6Y> (“Congress already regulates military acquisition extensively—through
standing procurement law and annual defense legislation—and imposes conditions on weapons systems,
intelligence collection, and contractor behavior.”).

27 ⁹ *See Little v. Barreme*, 6 U.S. (2 Cranch) 170, 177–79 (1804) (military action is unlawful when taken
28 “without any special [congressionally delegated] authority for that purpose”).

1 that defines the military profession. That constitutional arrangement is operationalized through statutes
2 but sustained by “reservoir[s]” of “[m]utual trust.”¹⁰ And that arrangement functions only if executive
3 discretion is exercised within the bounds Congress has established and in faithful execution of legislative
4 commands. Congress must be able to rely on the Secretary to use his discretion to “faithfully implement”
5 legislative directives and limits,¹¹ and military leaders must exercise that discretion in a manner that
6 upholds and respects civilian rule of law, leaving ultimate control of the military in “the hands of
7 democratically elected civilian leaders.”¹²

8 *Amici* are gravely concerned that the Secretary has exceeded those congressionally prescribed
9 bounds by deploying a supply chain risk designation under Section 3252 and FASCSA in an
10 unprecedented manner that appears disconnected from the purposes those statutes were enacted to serve.
11 Congress did not intend those statutes to be deployed as general-purpose tools for resolving policy disputes
12 or imposing punitive measures on domestic actors whose views on difficult questions of policy depart
13 from the current Administration’s. Rather, Congress crafted those powerful statutory tools to address a
14 defined universe of national-security threats, such as situations in which a foreign adversary is attempting
15 to “sabotage, maliciously introduce unwanted function, or otherwise subvert” a national-security system.
16 10 U.S.C. § 3252(d)(4); *accord* 41 U.S.C. § 4713(k)(6) (similar).

17 Reflecting its considered approach, Congress balanced the exceptional grant of authority in Section
18 3252 and FASCSA with important safeguards, permitting the Secretary to use these tools only after
19 determining that “less intrusive measures are not reasonably available to reduce . . . supply chain risk.”
20 10 U.S.C. § 3252(b); 41 U.S.C. § 4713(b)(3). This requirement reflects a deliberate choice to cabin
21 executive discretion and reserve these powers for only the rare situations where they are absolutely
22 necessary. *See id.* Treating them otherwise would transform carefully limited national-security tools into
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24 ¹⁰ Open Letter from Former Secretaries of Defense and Former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, *To*
25 *Support and Defend: Principles of Civilian Control and Best Practices of Civil-Military Relations* ¶ 13,
26 *War on the Rocks* (Sept. 6, 2022), <https://perma.cc/KP6S-CQDU>.

26 ¹¹ *Id.*

27 ¹² *McInnis, supra*, at 2.

1 instruments of unbounded executive power—the precise affront to the rule of law that the Constitution’s
2 separation of powers was designed to avoid.

3 When executive officials instead deploy delegated authority in ways “incompatible with the
4 expressed or implied will of Congress,”¹³ they disrupt this constitutional balance and erode the necessary
5 trust between the branches. The resulting institutional harms are predictable. Legislators find themselves
6 wondering whether to rescind or grant discretionary authority, hesitating to confer future discretion or
7 provide the authorities and resources necessary to address emerging and emergent threats. That dynamic
8 of distrust ultimately weakens the Nation’s ability to respond to national-security challenges.

9 *Second, amici* are gravely concerned that the Secretary’s actions threaten the military’s legitimacy
10 and civil-military relations generally by creating the appearance that the military is not bound by laws and
11 can punitively retaliate against domestic partners that disagree on difficult policy questions. The Armed
12 Forces have long been among the most trusted institutions in American life.¹⁴ That trust stems in large
13 part from the military’s history of remaining apart from and above the fray of American politics, devoted
14 to maintaining its singular mission to protect and preserve our Nation regardless of shifting political winds.
15 Public trust, in turn, confers both the legitimacy and the practical authority necessary for the military to
16 exercise its extraordinary powers in defense of the United States. By adhering to the rule of law, military
17 and executive officials foster public trust and confidence, ensuring that the military retains its position as
18 one of our Nation’s most respected institutions.

19 When military or civilian leaders use extraordinary authorities such as those at issue here in a
20 manner that appears retaliatory and untethered from their purpose of defending the supply chain from
21 foreign adversaries, they risk undermining public confidence in the rule-of-law foundation from which
22 the military derives its legitimacy. Public confidence erodes when executive officials appear to brandish
23 extraordinary national-security authorities in unprecedented, haphazard, and potentially retaliatory ways.

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25 ¹³ *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer*, 343 U.S. 579, 637 (1952) (Jackson, J., concurring).

26 ¹⁴ See, e.g., Gallup, *Confidence in Institutions* (2024), <https://perma.cc/P97V-6BGJ>; Tom W. Smith &
27 Jaesok Son, Nat’l Op. Rsch. Ctr., *General Social Survey 2012 Final Report: Trends in Public Attitudes
28 about Confidence in Institutions* (2013), <https://perma.cc/F2CK-HPU5>.

1 In those circumstances, the public sees military leaders as having “los[t] sight of . . . the balanced power
2 structure of our Republic,” and who instead “emphasize transient results [based] upon policies.”¹⁵

3 Such actions set a dangerous precedent. If extraordinary national-security authorities are perceived
4 as tools for retaliation or political advantage, future officials may feel emboldened to again reach for them
5 in similar ways. That result would further erode the military’s hard-earned nonpartisan reputation and risk
6 recasting the institution in the public eye—not as a steady defender of the Nation, but as an instrument of
7 shifting political aims.

8 **II. Punishing Domestic Defense Contractors Over Policy Disagreements Threatens U.S.
9 Military Primacy and Servicemember Safety.**

10 Advanced technical tools and weapons systems empower our military to achieve its mission
11 objectives, compete with foreign adversaries, and keep our servicemembers—and all Americans—safe.
12 Our military maintains its technological edge by working closely with companies in the private sector and
13 the American ingenuity they leverage.¹⁶ The Armed Forces rely on private-sector innovation to adapt to
14 evolving technologies and emerging threats.

15 These partnerships enjoy a long and storied history. In the early years of the Republic, the federal
16 government contracted with private gunsmiths to manufacture muskets for U.S. forces in the 1790s, and
17 later authorized private railroad companies to build the transcontinental railroad in the 1860s—projects
18 that proved critical to national defense and economic development alike.¹⁷ During World War I, Congress
19 established the War Industries Board to mobilize and coordinate private industry to supply the military.¹⁸
20 And during the Cold War, President Eisenhower created the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

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22 ¹⁵ *Youngstown*, 343 U.S. at 634 (Jackson, J., concurring).

23 ¹⁶ See Marcy E. Gallo, Cong. Rsch. Serv., *IF12869, The Defense Innovation Ecosystem* 1–2 (Jan. 8, 2025),
24 <https://perma.cc/N8LY-6A28>.

25 ¹⁷ See William M. Reid, Am. Soc’y of Arms Collectors, *1794/1798 U.S. Contract Muskets: The Political
26 and Military Situation That Precipitated These Contracts and a Summary of the Contracts and
27 Contractors* 1 (2016), <https://perma.cc/XSQ4-4CPM>; see also Pacific Railroad Act of 1862, ch. 120, 12
28 Stat. 489 (1862).

¹⁸ Benjamin R. Beede, *War Industries Board, in 1914–1918 Online: International Encyclopedia of the
First World War* (Oct. 8, 2014), <https://perma.cc/C5EN-WXAL>.

1 within the Department of Defense to catalyze technological innovation through collaboration with private
2 contractors and researchers.¹⁹ That agency’s partnerships with private contractors and researchers
3 produced transformative capabilities, including the precursor to the modern internet, advancements in
4 stealth aircraft, miniaturized GPS technologies, radar for unmanned aerial vehicles, artificial intelligence
5 advancements, and more. Today, ongoing partnerships with private companies enable the military to equip
6 our servicemembers with the tools needed to meet today’s operational demands and tomorrow’s emerging
7 threats.

8 Advanced artificial-intelligence technologies illustrate the modern importance of this longstanding
9 public-private partnership. The United States’ national-security advantage increasingly depends on access
10 to frontier AI systems developed by leading private-sector companies.²⁰ The Administration itself has
11 emphasized that maintaining a robust domestic ecosystem of multiple frontier AI developers is essential
12 to preserving America’s technological edge over foreign adversaries.²¹

13 The public-private partnerships that facilitate this technological advancement depend on trust,
14 predictability, and adherence to established legal frameworks. When the military demonstrates that it is a
15 reliable and even-handed partner, it attracts leading companies and innovators that are willing to make
16 long-term investments that will advance our national security, while also driving economic growth.
17 Compliance with statutory limits and established procurement processes fosters the stability necessary for
18 these relationships to flourish. But when civilian military leaders transgress the bounds of their authorities
19

20 ¹⁹ Mike Walker et al., DARPA, *Innovation at DARPA* 1 (July 1, 2016), <https://perma.cc/T4HK-9C7C>; *see also* DARPA, *About DARPA: Our Mission*, <https://www.darpa.mil/about#mission> (last visited Mar. 7,
21 2026).

22 ²⁰ Kelley M. Saylor, Cong. Rsch. Serv., *R45178, Artificial Intelligence and National Security* (Nov. 10,
23 2020), <https://perma.cc/7YSZ-B8ZA>.

24 ²¹ *See, e.g.*, Exec. Order No. 14,179, 90 Fed. Reg. 58499, 58499–01 (Dec. 11, 2025); *see also* Chief Digit.
25 & A.I. Off., U.S. Dep’t of Def., *CDAO Announces Partnerships with Frontier AI Companies to Address
26 National Security Mission Areas* (July 14, 2025), <https://perma.cc/KE7B-ACRV>; *see also* Def. Innovation
27 Unit & Chief Digit. & A.I. Off., U.S. Dep’t of Def., *DIU and CDAO: Deploying AI for Strategic Impact*
28 (Jan. 21, 2025) <https://perma.cc/6DVY-XWZ9> (“Adopting and responsibly accelerating AI use in the
[Department of Defense] is an imperative to deter major conflict—or win if forced to fight—in the twenty-
first century.”).

1 and cast aside settled practices, they risk eroding the trust of the American public as well as private
2 partners, and deter future partnerships essential to preserving national security. If American businesses
3 believe that the military does not operate within the rule of law—or that national-security authorities may
4 be wielded unpredictably or punitively—they will be reluctant to form and maintain these partnerships.
5 Indeed, government actions that arbitrarily penalize or exclude leading American developers therefore
6 risk undermining not only the trust that sustains military-industry collaboration, but also the national-
7 security objectives that the Administration’s own AI policies purport to advance.

8 The Secretary’s actions here threaten precisely those harms. By using national-security authorities
9 in an unprecedented and potentially unauthorized manner that appears to punish an American company
10 for a policy disagreement, the Secretary risks the long-term viability of critical public-private partnerships.
11 Private companies will rationally fear that those authorities may be used again to resolve disagreements
12 with the private sector. And the consequences of injecting such unpredictability into the public-private
13 partnerships that are vital for our national defense would be dire. When leading technology companies
14 perceive that partnering with the military exposes them to arbitrary or unbounded executive action, they
15 may reassess whether to invest in research relevant to defense uses or commit resources to long-term
16 partnerships with the military. This risks chilling investment in the next generation of technologies that
17 will serve the military’s mission, a chill that not only threatens to slow the advancement of U.S. defense
18 capabilities but simultaneously creates openings for foreign adversaries to gain a strategic advantage. In
19 short, *amici* worry that the uncertainty that the Secretary’s actions have created will materially detract
20 from military readiness and operational safety by harming the military’s ability to equip U.S.
21 servicemembers with the latest, most effective technology.

22 The risks to operational safety are compounded when the Secretary targets technologies that are
23 already integrated into ongoing U.S. military operations.²² Sudden uncertainty about the continued
24 availability of such systems or services could disrupt operational planning and place servicemembers at
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26 ²² See, e.g., Tess Bridgeman, *What Hegseth’s “Supply Chain Risk” Designation of Anthropic Does and*
27 *Doesn’t Mean*, Just Security (Mar. 2, 2026), <https://perma.cc/AU3A-RLTV> (“Anthropic’s Claude has
28 been, and is, ‘extensively deployed’ across U.S. military and intelligence systems.”).

1 risk. Any decision that affects U.S. military processes and systems during ongoing military operations
2 should be undertaken with utmost deliberation and sensitivity to their operational consequences.

3 * * * * *

4 For all these reasons, the challenged designation raises concerns that extend beyond this litigation.
5 If extraordinary national-security powers may be exercised in ways that appear untethered from their
6 statutory purpose, the resulting uncertainty threatens the rule of law, institutional trust, and public-private
7 cooperation that sustain the Nation's military strength.

8 **CONCLUSION**

9 Far from protecting U.S. national security, the Secretary's conduct here threatens the rule-of-law
10 principles that have long strengthened our military. *Amici* respectfully urge the Court to take all steps
11 necessary to prevent the misuse of important national security authorities, uphold the rule of law, and
12 ensure the continued preeminence of our Armed Forces.

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March 12, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

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ADDENDUM

1
2 *Amici's* short biographies listed below reflect a measure of their distinguished service to our
3 country.

4 **Admiral C. Steve Abbot, U.S. Navy (Ret.)**, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1966,
5 after which he was deployed to Vietnam and began a 34-year career with the U.S. Navy. His final active-
6 duty tour was as Deputy Commander-in-Chief, U.S. European Command from 1998 to 2000. Following
7 his retirement, Admiral Abbot served as Deputy Homeland Security Advisor to President George W. Bush
8 from 2001 to 2003.

9
10 **Admiral Thad W. Allen, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.)**, retired in 2010 as the 23rd Commandant of
11 the U.S. Coast Guard. Admiral Allen led the federal responses to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the
12 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. He led Atlantic Coast Guard forces in response to the 9/11 attacks and
13 coordinated the Coast Guard response to the Haitian earthquake of 2010.

14
15 **Vice Admiral Donald C. Arthur, U.S. Navy (Ret.)**, served as 35th Surgeon General of the Navy.
16 He was Commander of the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, and the Naval Hospital
17 in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He deployed and served with the hospital ship USNS Mercy.

18 **Rear Admiral (Upper Half) William D. Baumgartner, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.)**, had a variety
19 of operational and legal assignments during his 33 year career. As a flag officer, he served as the Judge
20 Advocate General (TJAG)/Chief Counsel of the Coast Guard and then as the Commander of the Seventh
21 (Southeast) Coast Guard District.

22
23 **The Honorable Richard Danzig** served as the 71st Secretary of the Navy from November 1998
24 to January 2001. He was the Under Secretary of the Navy between 1993 and 1997. He has been a director
25 of National Semiconductor Corporation (NY Stock Exchange), Human Genome Sciences Corporation
26 (NASDAQ) and Saffron Hill Ventures (a European Venture Fund). He has served as The Chairman of
27

1 the Board of The Center for a New American Security, Chairman of the Board of the Center for Strategic
2 and Budgetary Assessments, and as Chair of the Advisory Panel for Idaho National Laboratories’
3 Innovation Center. He has also been a member of President’s Intelligence Advisory Board, the Secretary
4 of Defense’s Defense Policy Board, the Homeland Security Secretary’s Advisory Council, the Aspen
5 Strategy Group, the Toyota Research Institute Advisory Board and the Cyber Resilience Forum of the
6 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Dr. Danzig’s most recent publication is
7 “Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, and National Security: The Fierce Urgency of Now.”
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9 **The Honorable Carlos Del Toro** immigrated to the U.S. with his family as refugees in 1962.
10 Raised in the Hell’s Kitchen neighborhood of New York City, he received an appointment to the United
11 States Naval Academy and commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer upon his graduation in 1983. His
12 26-year naval career included a series of critical appointments at sea and ashore, including command as
13 the Commissioning Commanding Officer of USS BULKELEY (DDG 84) and service in a combat zone
14 during Operation Desert Storm. After retiring from active-duty service, in 2004, Secretary Del Toro
15 continued to support a range of government and private sector programs by founding SBG Technology
16 Solutions, Inc., an engineering services company. Sworn in as the 78th Secretary of the Navy and Marine
17 Corps on August 9, 2021, Secretary Del Toro led the nearly one-million-person Department through the
18 largest modernization effort in half a century concurrent with the longest sustained surface-to-air naval
19 combat operations since World War II in the Red Sea. Under his leadership, the Department of the Navy
20 sought and commanded the largest budget in recent history, growing it over twenty-five percent over four
21 years from \$210B to \$261B. Today, Secretary Del Toro is also President & CEO of Del Toro Global
22 Associates, LLC.
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25 **Rear Admiral (Upper Half) F. Stephen Glass, U.S. Navy (Ret.)**, served in the U.S. Navy for
26 twenty-nine years, serving as Staff Judge Advocate and Force Judge Advocate billets advising Flag rank
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28

1 Commanders regarding military law and procedures, culminating his career as the reserve Judge Advocate
2 General of the Navy. He was awarded the Navy Marine Corps Distinguished Service Medal.

3 **Rear Admiral (Upper Half) Donald J. Guter, U.S. Navy (Ret.)**, served on active duty in the
4 Navy for 29 years, first as a surface warfare officer and then in the Judge Advocate General Corps,
5 ultimately serving as the Judge Advocate General of the Navy from 2000-2002. After retiring from active
6 duty, he served as Dean of Duquesne Law School and subsequently Dean of South Texas College of Law
7 Houston.

8
9 **Major General Richard S. Haddad, U.S. Air Force (Ret.)**, was the Vice Commander of the Air
10 Force Reserve Command, responsible for the daily operations of approximately 70,000 citizen Airmen
11 and 300 aircraft among 3 numbered air forces, 33 flying wings, 10 flying groups and one space wing.

12 **Major General Irving L. Halter, Jr., U.S. Air Force (Ret.)**, is an Air Force Academy graduate
13 and former fighter pilot, serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, in the Pentagon with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and
14 as Vice Superintendent of the Air Force Academy. He is the recipient of two Bronze Stars.

15 **Rear Admiral (Upper Half) Janice Hamby, U.S. Navy (Ret.)**, served on active duty from 1980
16 until 2012. Dr. Hamby's service included assignments at sea and in war zones, in command, on the Joint
17 Staff, and as a Deputy Department of Defense Chief Information Officer on the staff of the Office of the
18 Secretary of Defense. After retirement she became the Chancellor of National Defense University's
19 College of Information and Cyberspace. She completed her federal service in 2018.

20
21 **Rear Admiral (Lower Half) Charles D. Harr, U.S. Navy (Ret.)**, retired in 2013 as the 18th
22 Medical Officer of the Marine Corps, former Commanding Officer of the 4th Medical Battalion. He is a
23 Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeon currently practicing in Raleigh, North Carolina, and serving as the
24 Chief Medical Officer of WakeMed Health and Hospitals.

1 **General Michael V. Hayden, U.S. Air Force (Ret.)**, entered active military service in 1969.
2 During his career, he rose to the rank of four-star general and served as Director of the Central Intelligence
3 Agency and the National Security Agency. General Hayden also served as Commander of the Air
4 Intelligence Agency and held senior staff positions at the Pentagon, Headquarters U.S. European
5 Command, and the National Security Council.
6

7 **The Honorable Frank Kendall** served as the Secretary of the Air Force from 2021 to 2025 and
8 as the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics from 2012 to 2017. Earlier
9 in his career he was Vice President of Engineering at Raytheon and a member of the board of directors of
10 Leidos. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a Senior Fellow at the Center for
11 American Progress. He holds degrees from West Point, Caltech, and Georgetown University Law
12 Center. He is the author of “Lethal Autonomy; the Future of Warfare” and “Getting Defense Acquisition
13 Right.”
14

15 **Rear Admiral (Upper Half) James E. McPherson, JAGC, U.S. Navy (Ret.)**, served on active
16 duty for 26 years, retiring in 2006 as the Judge Advocate General of the Navy. He subsequently served
17 as the General Counsel of the Army, the Undersecretary of the Army, and the Acting Secretary of the
18 Navy.
19

20 **Brigadier General Mark A. Montjar, U.S. Army (Ret.)**, served in both the active Army and the
21 Army Reserve from 1972 to 2007. He returned to active duty immediately after the events of September
22 11, 2001, and took an early retirement from General Motors Corporation in April of 2002 as a Global
23 Purchasing Manager. His last two assignments as a brigadier general were at Ft. Monroe, Va. where he
24 served as the Deputy Commanding General of the US Army Cadet Command (Army ROTC) and at Ft.
25 Belvoir, Va. where he served as the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations at the US Army
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1 Material Command. After his military retirement he served as a Director of Business Development for
2 Booz Allen, Hamilton, Agility Defense and Government Services, and VSE Corporation.

3 **Admiral William A. Owens, U.S. Navy (Ret.)**, retired in 1996 as the Vice Chairman of the Joint
4 Chiefs of Staff. He began his career as a nuclear submariner, spending a total of 4,000 days aboard
5 submarines, including duty in Vietnam. Admiral Owens was a senior military assistant to two Secretaries
6 of Defense and served as commander of the U.S. 6th Fleet during Operation Desert Storm.

7
8 **The Honorable F. Whitten Peters** served as Secretary of the Air Force, Under Secretary of the
9 Air Force, and Acting Secretary of the Air Force from 1997 to 2001. He also was the Principal Deputy
10 General Counsel of the Department of Defense from 1995 to 1997. Since leaving DOD in 2001, Peters
11 has served on or chaired a number of Presidential, DOD, Air Force, and Commonwealth of Virginia
12 advisory committees and was a member of the Board and Chair of the Air and Space Forces
13 Association. He served as a Navy Line Officer during Vietnam.

14
15 **Major General Gale S. Pollock, U.S. Army (Ret.)**, served as the Commander of the U.S. Army
16 Medical Command and the Acting Surgeon General of the Army (the first woman, non-physician to have
17 this role in any of the military services). General Pollock was the 22nd Chief of the Army Nurse Corps.

18 **Rear Admiral Michael E. Smith, U.S. Navy (Ret.)**, served on active duty from 1983 until
19 2015. During his service he commanded at all operational levels from the commanding officer of the
20 navy's newest destroyer to command of an aircraft carrier strike group. Mike founded and leads National
21 Security Leaders for America, a bipartisan and pro-democracy organization of over 1400 former senior
22 national security leaders. Mike most recently served as a Presidential Appointee and Commissioner on
23 the American Battle Monuments Commission and as a Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Navy.

24
25 **Major General F. Andrew Turley, U.S. Air Force (Ret.)**, served in the U.S. Air Force for more
26 than 27 years, in a wide variety of active duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard judge advocate
27

1 positions at the wing, major command and Air Staff levels, culminating in his appointment as the Ninth
2 Air National Guard Assistant to The Judge Advocate General. As a federal civilian lawyer, he held senior
3 level legal positions with several federal agencies, including the Department of Justice, the White House,
4 and Department of the Air Force, and served as the general counsel of a small DoD agency. He is a retired
5 member of the Senior Executive Service.
6

7 **The Honorable Secretary Christine Wormuth** served as the 25th Secretary of the Army from
8 2021 to January 2025. Prior to becoming Army Secretary, Wormuth was the Under Secretary of Defense
9 for Policy from 2014 through 2016, and served in other senior positions on the National Security Council
10 and in the Office of the Secretary of Defense from 2009 to 2014. Secretary Wormuth is currently the CEO
11 and President of the Nuclear Threat Initiative, a nonprofit organization.
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on March 12, 2026, I filed the foregoing document via the Court's CM/ECF system. The document will be served electronically on counsel of record for the parties.

/s/ Clara J. Shin

Clara J. Shin

*Counsel for Amici Curiae Former Service
Secretaries and Retired Senior Military Officers*

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